

Case Study (Mozambican Debt Group)

JOURNALISTS IMPROVE THEIR COVERAGE IN THE DISCUSSIONS ON PES/OE AT THE PARLIAMENT

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Ten (10) Journalists from the main media houses at central level (TV, Radio and Newspapers) benefited from a training conducted by the GMD in November 2017.

The training focused on the subject “Monitoring of Social Accountability and Budget Analysis”, and aimed to provide the journalists with better knowledge on analysis and promotion of issues relating to PES/OE and the priorities in the sectors of Health and Agriculture, so that they can put more pressure on the State in the context of the social accountability and improvement of public services provision.



Photo 1: Journalists training session by GMD

The training helped to improve the quality of journalistic coverage in the discussion sessions on the proposal of the PES/OE for 2018, according to one of the trainees’ testimony “(...) with this training, we will be able to perform a better coverage, analysis and budgetary radiography during the discussion of the budget in the parliament. (...)”

The media pressure, combined with the legal practices undertaken by GMD and its partners in different levels around PES/OE 2018 proposal, on the Government and Republic Assembly resulted in the increase of real budget for the Health sector in 12,5 %. In the area of Health, the estimates predict, for instance, the increase in the number of children living with HIV who benefit from ART from 87. 039, in 2017, to 98. 717 in 2018, despite the context of crisis and low availability of resources for the State.

In general, this exercise was relevant in the strengthening of media in the process of Monitoring Social Responsibility and Accountability. Therefore, for future processes there is a need:

- To involve a bigger number of the representatives of media houses (including those from provincial and local level) and, whenever possible, to enable them before the discussion sessions on PES/OE in the Parliament, Provincial Assemblies, Development Observatories and Local Advisory Councils;
- To increase the number of training (to more than 1 annual);
- To focus the training on more specific subjects, for example, on the analysis of allocation and use of HIV/AIDS budget in a specific district or province.

Below is the link to the video with the testimony of the journalists during the training:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JJ_zMjxJ12l&feature=youtu.be

Here are some links to the matters published about the discussions on PES/OE 2018

<http://www.verdade.co.mz/tema-de-fundo/35-themadefundo/64309-frelimo-aprova-na-generalidade-plano-economico-pouco-social-para-2018>

<http://www.jornalnoticias.co.mz/index.php/politica/74186-ar-aprecia-pes-e-oe-2018.html>

<http://opais.sapo.mz/ar-aprova-na-generalidade-orcamento-do-estado-para-2018>